

This message is in response to RM-10785 petitioning for the elimination of Element 1 for all amateur radio examinations.

Currently, the 5 wpm requirement requires a minimal commitment, at the very most, for individuals wanting an amateur radio license.

I am very concerned that individuals unwilling to spend a few hours learning the Morse to obtain an amateur radio license would be sufficiently motivated and committed to improve their own skills and level of expertise in any area in order to become an asset to the amateur service.

As a communication mode CW is far from obsolete. It is often the most reliable form of communication. During power outages/emergencies, low power battery or solar powered CW transceivers may in fact be the only effective or available form of communication. CW has a 12 db advantage over single side band making communications far more reliable than the low powered battery or solar powered transceivers operating single side band mode.

My other concern is, that if the requirement for element 1 is eliminated, there will be much new pressure to eliminate the HF CW sub bands. Additional crowding of the phone sub bands from an anticipated influx of large numbers of no code phone operators will create a demand for more spectrum. Justifying the maintenance of the CW sub bands will be difficult under these conditions. Loss of these CW sub bands would surely be the demise of an historic, yet even today , a most useful and reliable means of communication.